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## Pelosi appoints 2nd GOP critic

In this July 22, 2021, file photo Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., meets with reporters at the Capitol in Washington. Pelosi and Liz Cheney have the most unlikely of partnerships. The two longtime political adversaries have joined forces to investigate the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. Pelosi tapped Cheney to join the committee that will hold its first hearing next week.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite, File)  
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## Pelosi appoints 2nd GOP critic of Trump to Jan. 6 committee

From Front

By **HOPE YEN and MARY CLARE JALONICK**  
**WASHINGTON (AP)** —

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on Sunday named a second Republican critic of Donald Trump, Rep. Adam Kinzinger, to a special committee investigating the Capitol riot and pledged that the Democratic-majority panel will “get to the truth.” Kinzinger said he “humbly accepted” the appointment even as his party’s leadership is boycotting the inquiry. With the committee set to hold its first meeting, hearing from police officers who battled the rioters, Pelosi said it was imperative to learn what happened on Jan. 6, when insurrectionists disrupted the congressional certification of Joe Biden’s presidential victory, and why the violent siege took place. That mission, she said, must be pursued in a bipartisan manner to ensure “such an attack can never happen again.” Kinzinger, an Illinois Republican, will bring “great patriotism to the committee’s mission: to find the facts and protect our Democracy,” she said in a statement.

He joins Rep. Liz Cheney of Wyoming, as the two committee’s Republicans, both selected by the leader of the opposition party, Kinzinger and Cheney were among the 10 House Republicans to vote for Trump’s second impeachment. They were the only two Republicans who voted last month to form the special committee.

“For months, lies and conspiracy theories have been spread, threatening our self-governance,” Kinzinger said in a statement. “For months, I have said that the American people deserve transparency and truth on how and why thousands showed up to attack our democracy.”

“I will work diligently to ensure we get to the truth and hold those responsible for the attack fully accountable,” he said.

House Republican leader Kevin McCarthy has said the GOP will not participate after Pelosi, D-Calif., refused to accept two of the members he picked.

McCarthy, R-Calif., has said the committee was a “sham process” and withdrew his five members when Pelosi rejected two of them, Reps. Jim Banks of Indiana and Jim Jordan of



In this May 12, 2021 file photo, Rep. Adam Kinzinger, R-Ill., speaks to the media at the Capitol in Washington. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Sunday, July 25 she intends to name Kinzinger to a congressional committee investigating the violent Jan. 6 Capitol insurrection, pledging that the panel will “find the truth” even as the GOP threatens to boycott the effort. (AP Photo/Amanda Andrade-Rhoades, File)

Ohio. Both voted on Jan. 6 against certifying Biden’s election victory over Trump and both are outspoken allies of the former president. In a statement Sunday, McCarthy said Pelosi’s decision to reject his picks and appoint members “who share her preconceived narrative will not yield a serious investigation” and is intended “to satisfy her political objectives.”

Kinzinger and Cheney have faulted Trump as a factor in spurring the insurrection with his persistently false claims that the 2020

election was “stolen” due to voting fraud.

In recent weeks, Kinzinger has suggested he would be open to serving on the committee, despite threats from McCarthy that Republicans who accept a spot could be stripped of their regular committee assignments as retaliation for participating.

“It’s clear that Pelosi only wants members on this committee who will stick to her talking points and stick to her narrative. That’s why she’s picked the group that she’s already picked,”

Banks said on “Fox News Sunday.” He said that “anyone that she asks to be on this committee, from this point moving forward, will be stuck to her -- her narrative, to her point of view. There won’t be another side.”


The House voted in May to create an independent investigation that would have been evenly split between the parties, but Senate Republicans blocked that approach. Pelosi said the new panel was being created only because a bipartisan commission was no longer an option.

Currently Cheney sits on the committee along with seven Democrats — ensuring they have a quorum to proceed, whether other Republicans participate or not.

Pelosi expressed confidence that the committee’s work will be seen as bipartisan and credible even with McCarthy’s effort to boycott the panel.

“We have to, again, ignore the antics of those who do not want to find the truth,” she said. “We will find the truth. That truth will have the confidence of the American people because it will be done patriotically and not in a partisan way.” □





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## Health care for older immigrants sees momentum among states

By SOPHIA TAREEN

**CHICAGO (AP)** — Most mornings, 62-year-old Maria Elena Estamilla wakes up with pelvic pain and dread that she faces the same fate as her mother and grandmother: fatal cervical cancer.

The Chicago woman's last full medical exam was in 2015 and she sees no options for care as a Mexican immigrant without permission to live in the U.S. She's not eligible for Medicare, Medicaid or Affordable Care Act coverage. As a child care worker, she didn't have employer coverage. She can't afford private insurance.

But things may soon change. Illinois is among a handful of Democratic-run states extending health insurance coverage to adult immigrants in the country illegally, including seniors. The state, which became the first to offer a Medicaid-like program for older immigrants last year, used a new budget to expand the program. California followed suit, including coverage for those 50 and over in the latest budget. And Oregon's governor signed a plan this week offering benefits to low-income immigrants over 19. New York advocates are banking on the momentum to do the same. Supporters say the trend is crucial during a coronavirus pandemic that has left immigrants, who are disproportionately essential workers, more vulnerable to COVID-19 and as federal remedies, like an immigration overhaul or "public option" health insurance, face tough political odds. While opponents question the cost and using taxpayer funding, experts believe it will ultimately save money and address looming issues with an aging immigrant population. "This program can't come any faster for me because of the pain and discomfort I feel," Estamilla said. "I'm very scared."

Immigrants, both with legal status and without, are more likely to be uninsured than citizens.

Among those under 65,



**Francisca Perez, 84, sits by the dining table on a wheelchair in her house in Chicago's Little Village neighborhood, Wednesday, June 30, 2021.**

roughly 46% of immigrants in the country illegally don't have insurance, compared with about 25% of immigrants with legal status. About 9% of citizens are uninsured, according to a Kaiser Family Foundation analysis in July, which didn't include data for those over 65.

Barriers include cost and limited options. For instance, green card holders must wait five years for Medicaid eligibility. When it comes to using public benefits, there are also concerns about repercussions like deportation. A Trump administration rule denying green cards to immigrants who used public benefits had a chilling effect. Use of food stamps declined 37% among non-citizens from 2016 to 2019, according to a Migration Policy Institute study in December.

Esther Corpuz, CEO of Alivio Health Center, said enrolling people in services remains difficult even after the Biden administration scrapped the "public charge" rule. Alivio runs Chicago-area clinics serving 50,000 patients, mainly immigrants without legal status.

"There still is that fear if they sign up for some kind of governmental benefit ... that will be used against them in the future," she

said.

In recent years, about half a dozen states have focused on health coverage for immigrant children and young adults without legal status. Illinois, California, Oregon are among those covering children. Last year, California began offering public insurance for all low-income residents under 26. Immigrants are more likely to remain in the U.S. compared with two decades ago, according to Arturo Vargas Bustamante, a professor at the University of California, Los Angeles' Fielding School of Public Health. According to a July study he co-wrote, immigrants' median age increased from 37 to 45 between 2000 and 2018.

Without action, America faces a health care crisis as immigrants age, Bustamante said, adding that offering insurance will save money by reducing reliance on emergency rooms.

Leaders in Illinois and California say their solution is inching toward coverage for all, which also makes the high cost more politically palatable.

"Look at what immigrants do for our economy," Democratic Illinois House Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch said. "Including them in our health insurance, it keeps them healthy and allows them to go to work and

compete and be able to contribute."

The state dedicated \$36 million of its recent \$42 billion budget to expand coverage from those 65 and older to those 55 and older, including immigrants with legal status who don't yet qualify for other help and those in the country illegally. More than 5,100 people have applied since December. Supporters estimate at least 12,000 will be eligible when the expansion kicks in next year. California will spend \$1.3 billion for a Medicaid expansion starting in 2022 that covers expenses for roughly 235,000 low-income immigrants 50 and older who are in the country illegally. Oregon Gov. Kate Brown's office said the state's expansion will cover eligible low-income immigrant

adults regardless of status, but health officials can narrow criteria to fit spending limits set by lawmakers. Up to 80,000 people could enroll.

Republicans have criticized supporting noncitizens, while fiscal watchdogs question using state taxpayer funds.

Susan Shelley of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association said California's Medicaid program already faces complaints it doesn't pay doctors enough to provide proper care and an expensive expansion won't help.

"It's an overpromise, and it's not addressing the priorities of the people already on the program," she said. But backers say such programs also benefit citizens. Among the estimated 11 million immigrants without legal status, roughly 22% over 15 are married to a U.S. citizen or green card holder, according to a Migration Policy Institute report in February.

Some also call it a moral issue, especially during the pandemic. The World Health Organization urged countries to pay health care costs for all migrants and refugees.

"Any inhabitant of the U.S. has the right to have their basic health care needs met," said Lawrence Gostin, director of the WHO Collaborating Center on Public Health Law and Human Rights at Georgetown University. "It's a matter of ethics and the international right to health."

The newly insured feel the difference. □



**Francisca Perez, 84, sits on a wheelchair in her house in Chicago's Little Village neighborhood, Wednesday, June 30, 2021.**

(AP Photo/Shafkat Anowar)



# Fauci says US headed in 'wrong direction' on coronavirus

**WILMINGTON, Del. (AP)**

— The United States is in an “unnecessary predicament” of soaring COVID-19 cases fueled by unvaccinated Americans and the virulent delta variant, the nation’s top infectious diseases expert said Sunday. “We’re going in the wrong direction,” said Dr. Anthony Fauci, describing himself as “very frustrated.”

He said recommending that the vaccinated wear masks is “under active consideration” by the government’s leading public health officials.

Also, booster shots may be suggested for people with suppressed immune systems who have been vaccinated, Fauci said.

Fauci, who also serves as President Joe Biden’s chief medical adviser, told CNN’s “State of the Union” that he has taken part in conversations about altering the mask guidelines.

He noted that some local jurisdictions where infection rates are surging, such as Los Angeles County, are



**Top infectious disease expert Dr. Anthony Fauci responds to accusations by Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., as he testifies before the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, July 20, 2021. Cases of COVID-19 have tripled over the past three weeks, and hospitalizations and deaths are rising among unvaccinated people.**

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite, Pool)

already calling on individuals to wear masks in indoor public spaces regardless of vaccination status. Fauci said those local rules are compatible with the Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention recommendation that the vaccinated do not need to wear masks in public.

Nearly 163 million people, or 49% of the eligible U.S. population, are vacci-

nated, according to CDC data.

“This is an issue predominantly among the unvaccinated, which is the reason why we’re out there, practically pleading with the un-

vaccinated people to go out and get vaccinated,” Fauci said.

Fauci said government experts are reviewing early data as they consider whether to recommend that vaccinated individuals to get booster shots. He suggested that some of the most vulnerable, such as organ transplant and cancer patients, are “likely” to be recommended for booster shots.

He also praised Republicans, including Govs. Asa Hutchinson of Arkansas and Ron DeSantis of Florida, and the second-ranking House leader, Rep. Steve Scalise of Louisiana, for encouraging their constituents to get vaccinated.

Their states have among the lowest vaccination rates in the country.

“What I would really like to see is more and more of the leaders in those areas that are not vaccinating to get out and speak out and encourage people to get vaccinated,” Fauci said. □

## Sparked by pandemic fallout, homeschooling surges across U.S



**Felicity Brown, 9, uses a workbook to practice math with her parents and siblings at home in Austin, Texas, on Tuesday, July 13, 2021. After homeschooling during the pandemic, the Brown family has switched to homeschooling their kids permanently using a Catholic-based curriculum and won't be sending them back to in-person schools in the fall.**

(AP Photo/Eric Gay)

**By DAVID CRARY**

(AP) - Although the pandemic disrupted family life across the U.S. since taking hold in spring 2020, some parents are grateful for one consequence: They’re now opting to homeschool their children, even as schools plan to resume in-person classes. The specific reasons vary widely. Some families who spoke with

The Associated Press have children with special educational needs; others seek a faith-based curriculum or say their local schools are flawed. The common denominator: They tried homeschooling on what they thought was a temporary basis and found it beneficial to their children.

“That’s one of the silver linings of the pandemic – I

don’t think we would have chosen to homeschool otherwise,” said Danielle King of Randolph, Vermont, whose 7-year-old daughter Zoë thrived with the flexible, one-on-one instruction. Her curriculum has included literature, anatomy, even archaeology, enlivened by outdoor excursions to search for fossils.

The surge has been confirmed by the U.S. Census Bureau, which reported in March that the rate of households homeschooling their children rose to 11% by September 2020, more than doubling from 5.4% just six months earlier.

Black households saw the largest jump; their homeschooling rate rose from 3.3% in the spring of 2020 to 16.1% in the fall.

The parents in one of those households, Arlena and Robert Brown of Austin, Texas, had three children in elementary school when the pandemic took hold. After experimenting with virtual

learning, the couple opted to try homeschooling with a Catholic-oriented curriculum provided by Seton Home Study School, which serves about 16,000 students nationwide.

The Browns plan to continue homeschooling for the coming year, grateful that they can tailor the curriculum to fit their children’s distinctive needs. Jacoby, 11, has been diagnosed with narcolepsy and sometimes needs naps during the day; Riley, 10, has tested as academically gifted; Felicity, 9, has a learning disability.

“I didn’t want my kids to become a statistic and not meet their full potential,” said Robert Brown, a former teacher who now does consulting. “And we wanted them to have very solid understanding of their faith.” Arlena Brown, who gave birth to a fourth child 10 months ago, worked as a preschool teacher before the pandemic. Homeschooling, she says, has

been a rewarding adventure. “In the beginning, the biggest challenge was to unschool ourselves and understand that homeschooling has so much freedom,” she said. “We can go as quickly or slowly as we need to.”

Race played a key role in the decision by another African American family to homeschool their 12-year-old son, Dorian.

Angela Valentine said Dorian was often the only Black student in his classes at a suburban Chicago public school, was sometimes treated unfairly by administrators, and was dismayed as other children stopped playing with him.

As the pandemic eased, the family decided to keep Dorian at home and teach him there, using a curriculum provided by National Black Home Educators that provides content for each academic subject pertaining to African American history and culture. □



# Europe's summer tourism outlook dimmed by variants, rules

By **KELVIN CHAN**

**LONDON (AP)** — Chaos and confusion over travel rules and measures to contain new virus outbreaks are contributing to another cruel summer for Europe's battered tourism industry. Popular destination countries are grappling with surging COVID-19 variants, but the patchwork and last-minute nature of the efforts as the peak season gets underway threatens to derail another summer.

In France, the world's most visited country, visitors to cultural and tourist sites were confronted this week with a new requirement for a special COVID-19 pass.

To get the pass, which comes in paper or digital form, people must prove they're either fully vaccinated or recently recovered from an infection, or produce a negative virus test. Use of the pass could extend next month to restaurants and cafes.

Italy said Thursday that people will need a similar pass to access museums and movie theaters, dine inside restaurants and cafes, and get into pools, casinos and a range of other venues.

At the Eiffel Tower, unprepared tourists lined up for quick virus tests so they could get the pass to visit the Paris landmark. Johnny Nielsen, visiting from Denmark with his wife and two children, questioned the usefulness of the French rules.

"If I get tested now, I can go but then I (could) get corona in the queue right here," Nielsen said, though he added they wouldn't change their plans because of it.

Juan Truque, a tourist from Miami, said he wasn't vaccinated but took a test so he could travel to France via Spain with his mother.

"Now they are forcing you to wear masks and to do similar kind of things that are impositions to you. To me, they are violations to your freedom," he said.

Europe's vital travel and tourism industry is desperate to make up after a disastrous 2020. International



**In this Monday, May 17, 2021 file photo, a passenger of a flight arriving at Faro leaves the airport, outside Faro, in Portugal's southern Algarve region. For Europe's battered tourism industry, fresh virus outbreaks and chaos and confusion over travel rules are contributing to another cruel summer.**

(AP Photo/Ana Brigida, File)

tourist arrivals to Europe last year plunged by nearly 70%, and for the first five months of this year, they're down 85%, according to U.N. World Tourism Organization figures.

American, Japanese and Chinese travelers aren't confident it will be possible to visit and move freely within Europe, the European Travel Commission said. International arrivals are forecast to remain at nearly half their 2019 level this year, though domestic demand will help make up the shortfall.

The U.K.'s statistics office suspended its monthly international passenger data, because it said there aren't enough people arriving "to provide robust estimates."

The United States this week upgraded its travel warning for Britain to the highest level. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advised Americans to avoid traveling to the country because of the risk of contracting COVID-19 variants, while the U.S. State Department raised its alert level to "do not travel" from the previous less severe "reconsider travel" advisory.

The recommendations are constantly under review and not binding, although they may affect group

tours and insurance rates. Britain's warning has fluctuated several times this year already.

Some countries are showing signs of a rebound, however.

Spain, the world's second-most visited country, received 3.2 million tourists from January to May — a tenth of the amount in the same period of 2019. But visits surged in June with 2.3 million arrivals, the best monthly figure since the start of the pandemic, although still only 75% of the figure from two years ago.

Spain's secretary of state for tourism, Fernando Valdés, credited the European Union's deployment in June of its digital COVID-19 vaccine passport for having a "a positive impact" on foreign arrivals. That, and the U.K. move to allow non-essential travel, "allowed us to start the 2021 summer season in the best conditions," he said.

The EU app allows the bloc's residents to show they've been vaccinated, tested negative or recovered from the virus.

In Greece, where COVID-19 infections are also rising sharply, authorities have openly expressed concern that slowing vaccination rates could hurt

the struggling tourism industry, a mainstay of the economy. Authorities have tightened restrictions for unvaccinated tourists and residents, banning their entry to all indoor dining and entertainment venues.

Development Minister Adonis Georgiadis urged the travel industry to put on a brave face.

"It's very important that we do not give the impression that we have lost control of the pandemic," Georgiadis said last week.

Some countries sparked chaos with last-minute

changes to entry rules.

Denmark's decision to upgrade Britain to its "red" list of countries with tighter travel restrictions threw London resident Richard Moorby's vacation plans into disarray.

Moorby originally planned to go to Copenhagen in August to meet up with his Danish wife and their two children visiting his in-laws — like they did last summer. But under current rules Moorby wouldn't have been able to travel separately because he's not Danish. They planned instead to travel together, which they thought would be allowed even after the change — but they missed the announcement's fine print prohibiting non-Danes from "red list" countries including the U.K. from visiting without a worthy purpose, which doesn't include tourism.

"It was going to be a bit of a non-holiday anyway," Moorby said. But "it went from, 'We'd have a nice holiday in Denmark,' to 'well, maybe I can just about get there,' to 'I can't even travel'."

Meanwhile, the U.K. government unexpectedly announced that travelers coming from France would still have to self-isolate for up 10 days because of worries about the beta variant, frustrating travelers and angering the tourism industry and French government. □



**In this Tuesday, June 8, 2021 file photo, people sunbathe near the beach in Barcelona, Spain. For Europe's battered tourism industry, chaos and confusion over travel rules and measures to contain fresh virus outbreaks are contributing to another cruel summer. Popular destination countries are grappling with surging COVID-19 variants but the patchwork and last-minute nature of the efforts as peak season gets underway threatens to derail another summer.**

(AP Photo/Emilio Morenatti, File)



# Anti-corruption prosecutor praised by US flees Guatemala

By **SONIA PÉREZ D.**

**LAS CHINAMAS, El Salvador (AP)** — Anti-corruption prosecutor Juan Francisco Sandoval fled Guatemala late Friday, arriving in neighboring El Salvador just hours after he was removed from his post.

Consuelo Porras, Guatemala's attorney general, had accused the former head of the Special Prosecutor's Office Against Impunity of "abuses" without specifying what they were. Sandoval said he was fired because of his investigations into top officials in the administration of President Alejandro Giammattei. He said he had fled for his own safety, becoming the fifth law enforcement official in three years to do so.

"Sadly, this has become a situation that many public servants in Guatemala have had to go through simply because we are not useful for the regime," Sandoval said.

"Wherever I am, I'm going to continue working for the good of the people of Guatemala, but for my own safety, I am not going to be used by people who have made exploiting government funds a way of life," he said.

Sandoval arrived in La Chinamas, a border town in El Salvador, about 75 miles (120 kilometers) south-



**The special Prosecutor's Office Against Impunity, Juan Francisco Sandoval, center, enters to Las Chinamas, El Salvador, on the border with Guatemala, early Saturday, July 24, 2021. Guatemala's attorney general has removed Sandoval less than two months after U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris stressed the office's importance amid a growing push against anti-corruption efforts in the country.**

(AP Photo/Sonia Perez Diaz)

east of Guatemala City. He was accompanied on his trip out of Guatemala by human rights activists, Swedish Ambassador Hans Magnusson, and journalists from The Associated Press. Julie Chung, the U.S. acting assistant secretary of state for Western Hemisphere Affairs, wrote that Sandoval's firing "is a step backward for the rule of law" in Guatemala. Chung wrote in her Twitter account that his re-

moval "contributes to the perception that there is a systematic effort in Guatemala to weaken those who fight against corruption." Iván Velásquez, the former head of the U.N. anti-corruption commission expelled from Guatemala in 2019 by former president Jimmy Morales, called Sandoval's removal "an illegal, arbitrary and criminal act." "The international community should protect him

immediately," Velásquez said.

A government statement earlier Friday said Porras had removed Sandoval due to "constant abuses and frequent abuses to the institutionality" of the ministry.

Sandoval was a respected anti-corruption prosecutor with a record of pursuing dozens of criminal networks. Together with the former United Nations anti-

corruption mission in Guatemala he helped take down former President Otto Pérez Molina and some members of his cabinet on corruption charges.

Less than two months earlier, U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris had stressed the office's importance amid a growing push against anti-corruption efforts in the country.

In June, Harris visited Guatemala as part of her work to find ways the U.S. can help address the root causes of Central American migration, among them corruption. She told Guatemalan officials that the U.S. wanted to support anti-corruption efforts, but that the participation of the anti-impunity prosecutor's office and Sandoval would be essential.

Observers had previously expressed concerns that Porras was blocking the work of Sandoval's office and that his job could be jeopardy.

Porras had blocked attempts by Sandoval's office to lift the immunity of government officials suspected of crimes or make arrests of powerful individuals investigated for corruption.

On Thursday, Porras removed another prosecutor from the anti-impunity office. □



**German Chancellor Angela Merkel speaks, during her annual summer news conference in Berlin, Germany, Thursday, July 22, 2021. Merkel said Thursday that new coronavirus infections in Germany are once again rising at worrying speed. She appealed to her compatriots to get vaccinated and persuade others to do so.**

(Wolfgang Kumm/dpa via AP)

By **EMILY SCHULTHEIS**

**BERLIN (AP)** — German politicians were deeply divided Sunday over a warning by Chancellor Angela

Merkel's chief of staff that restrictions for unvaccinated people may be necessary if COVID-19 infection numbers reach new heights

## Germans divided over restrictions for the unvaccinated

in the coming months.

Chief of staff Helge Braun told the newspaper Bild am Sonntag that he doesn't expect another coronavirus-related lockdown in Germany.

But Braun said that unvaccinated people may be barred from entering venues like restaurants, movie theaters or sports stadiums "because the residual risk is too high."

Braun said getting vaccinated is important to protect against severe disease and because "vaccinated people will definitely have more freedoms than unvaccinated people." He

said such policies would be legal because "the state has the responsibility to protect the health of its citizens."

His comments fueled a debate in German politics about potential vaccination requirements.

The issue has proven divisive, even within Merkel's own Christian Democrats party. Its candidate to replace Merkel as Germany's leader, Armin Laschet, said he opposes any formal or informal vaccine requirements for the time being.

"I don't believe in compulsory vaccinations and I don't believe we should put

indirect pressure on people to get vaccinated," he told the German broadcaster ZDF on Sunday.

"In a free country there are rights to freedom, not just for specific groups."

If Germany's vaccination rates remain too low this fall, other options could be considered, Laschet said, adding "but not now."

With the highly transmissible delta variant spreading in Germany, politicians have debated the possibility of compulsory vaccinations for specific professions, including medical workers. No such requirements have been implemented yet. □



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## 28 abducted Baptist school students freed in Nigeria

**By IBRAHIM GARBA and SAM OLUKOYA**  
**KANO, Nigeria (AP)** — Armed kidnapers in Nigeria have released 28 of the more than 120 students who were abducted at the beginning of July from the Bethel Baptist High School in the northern town of Damishi. Church officials handed those children over to their parents at the school on Sunday. But the Rev. Israel Akanji, president of the Baptist Convention, said more than 80 other children are still being held by the gunmen. So far 34 children kidnapped from the school on July 5 have either been released or have escaped from the custody of the gunmen. It is unclear when

the other children will be released. The gunmen have reportedly demanded 500,000 Naira (about \$1,200) for each student. Akanji said the church did not pay any ransoms because it is opposed to paying criminals, but he added the church was unable to stop the children's families from taking any actions they deem fit to secure their release. A spokesman for the Nigerian Police, Mohammed Jalige, said security forces and civilian defense forces were on a routine rescue patrol July 12 around the forests near the village of Tsohon Gaya when they found three exhausted kidnapped victims roaming in the bush. Two other students escaped on July 20

when they were ordered to fetch firewood from a nearby forest. Jalige said they were undergoing medical examinations. Gunman called bandits have carried out a spate of mass abductions from schools in northern Nigeria this year, mainly seeking ransoms. Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari, who won election on hopes that he would tackle Nigeria's security challenges, has not been able to do much in addressing the growing cases of mass abductions from Nigerian schools. □



Parents are reunited with released students of the Bethel Baptist High School in Damishi, Nigeria, on Sunday, July 25, 2021. Armed kidnapers in Nigeria have released 28 of the more than 120 students who were abducted at the beginning of July from the Bethel Baptist High School in the northern town of Damishi. Church officials handed those children over to their parents at the school on Sunday.

(AP Photo)

## Violent protests in Tunisia over the economy, virus spread

**By BOUAZZA BEN BOUAZZA**  
**TUNIS, Tunisia (AP)** — Violent demonstrations broke out on Sunday in several Tunisian cities as protesters expressed anger at the deterioration of the North African nation's health, economic and social situation. Thousands of people defied virus restrictions and scorching heat to demonstrate in the capital of Tunis and other cities. The largely young crowds shouted "Get out!" and slogans calling for the dissolution of parliament and early elections. The protests were called on the 64th anniversary of Tunisia's independence by a new group called the July 25 Movement. Security forces deployed in force, especially in Tunis where police blockades blocked all streets leading to the main artery of the

capital, Avenue Bourguiba. The avenue was a key site for the Tunisian revolution a decade ago that brought down a dictatorial regime and unleashed the Arab Spring uprisings. Police used tear gas to disperse some demonstrators throwing projectiles at officers and made several arrests. Clashes also took place in several other towns, notably in Nabeul, Sousse, Kairouan, Sfax and Tozeur. Protesters also stormed the offices of the Islamist movement Ennahdha, the dominant force in parliament. Videos circulating online showed smoke pouring out of the Ennahdha building. The attackers damaged computers and other equipment inside and threw documents onto the streets. □

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## MedCare's Fit2Fly COVID-19 Testing Center Visit our newest Location on Palm Beach!

**PALM BEACH** — MedCare's Fit2Fly COVID-19 Testing Center just opened a third walk-in location on Palm Beach at Budget Car Rental next to Soprano's Piano Bar. The other two locations are at the Cove Mall and near the Courtyard by Marriott Aruba Resort at the Mill.

All three fit2fly test centers offer your best option for the post vacation COVID-19 test which has been a requirement since January 26th 2021 by the U.S. before returning home. All passengers going to the United States, including U.S. citizens, are required to have a negative (antigen or PCR) COVID-19 test result of a test taken maximum three days prior to boarding the flight, or documentation of recovery from COVID-19. MedCare's testing centers in and close to the hotels provide you with an easy and secure solution.

MedCare Clinic, a high-quality medical clinic that is specialized in urgent care for tourists and that has been appointed as the national COVID-19 clinic for tourists, and Laboratorio di Servizio, a full-service modern medical laboratory with state-of-the-art equipment, have partnered up to provide fast and reliable COVID-19 testing to all. Laboratorio di Servizio is ISO-15189:2012 accredited by the Dutch Council for Accreditation (M317).

### Rapid PCR

As Aruba resumes to receive more and more visitors each month, one thing has become very clear: testing is critical. Thus far MedCare Clinic has been offering high-volume laboratory testing with results in 24 hours or less. The newest service on the market is Rapid PCR, where you receive your results in minutes not hours.

### Just steps away from you

The Fit2Fly COVID-19 Testing Centers are located at the Cove Mall, near the Courtyard by Marriott Aruba Resort at the Mill, and now also at Budget car rental next to Soprano's Piano Bar. These three locations at a stone's throw from your resort, condominium, or other vacation accommodation. Walk-ins are welcome. It is recommended that the tests are done timely, as the negative test is only accepted if taken up to three days before boarding your flight. MedCare Fit2Fly Testing Center at the Cove Mall is opposite the Holiday Inn and is open every day for walk-ins from 8 AM through 10 PM. MedCare's other location is situated at The Courtyard Aruba Resort, is across the street from the RIU Hotel and is open every day from 8:30 AM until 2 PM. The Newest location at Budget Car Rental next to Soprano's Piano Bar is open daily from 5 PM to 9 PM.



### At your hotel

For a selection of hotels/resorts in Aruba, MedCare has setup Testing Centers on site. The hotels/resorts at which we have a testing site are: Divi All Inclusive, Divi Dutch Village, Divi Golf, Divi Phoenix, Divi Tamarijn, Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort, Hyatt Regency, Renaissance, and the Ritz-Carlton Resort. Please contact your front desk for more information on our Testing Centers at these properties.

### Costs and timing

Passengers must be tested with a viral test that could be either an Antigen Test or a nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT), such as the reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (PCR). The price for the Antigen Test is only \$50, and the PCR Test is available, for \$125, The new rapid PCR will be \$150 (results in 30 minutes.) MedCare offers the easier and substantially cheaper Antigen Test that is acceptable for travel to the U.S. as per the CDC guidelines. Pre-travel testing is not covered by the Aruban visitor insurance. Please contact your insurance company to verify if testing costs are insured. Results are e-mailed to you within 24 hours of testing.

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For your convenience, Medcare also offers private testing at your accommodation/hotel room for a one-time service fee of \$120. This fee covers testing up to 10 people (one appointment, at one location and a specific time). Additional persons will be charged \$10 per person. □

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## Watch 'Ask Pilar': our videos show you the other Aruba

**ORANJESTAD** — Aruba Today offers a series of videos 'Ask Pilar' on their Facebook page Aruba Today and on the website [www.arubatoday.com](http://www.arubatoday.com). Since the start, October 2019, more than 20 videos have been created. Let us introduce to you this project and present the people behind it.

Why a video? Besides offering our free daily newspaper, posts on Facebook and Instagram and our website content, we started evaluating the plans for short video's about a year ago. The concept was created by Editor-in-Chief Linda Reijnders to add variety to the product Aruba Today. "There is more to this island than palm trees and beaches and in our videos we wish to inform and educate the visitor by showing local places and characters of any kind. We are all new to this, the goal is not to deliver a technical perfect result, more to motivate our visitors with the places we visit as well as transmitting the good energy coming from it." As the title of the video 'Ask Pilar' already shows, the viewer has the opportunity to actually ask about the topics shown, or even suggest a location for a video. Just ask our host Pilar on Facebook and we will let you know.

### The team

Pilar Flores, 35- years- old, is the jolly host of 'Ask Pilar'. She loves doing the videos because she gets to know many interesting places and meet a lot of nice people. "I hope with it that people will get to know and love Aruba the way us locals do."

The one capturing the images with his camera and editing them is our videographer Juan Luis Pinto Sotter, Marketing Major at the University of Aruba. "I chose marketing because I wanted a career that kept me physically and mentally active. As a marketer there is a lot of moving around, I can't begin to imagine what the real world will be like."

Video Director of 'Ask Pilar' is Linda Reijnders, Sales of Aruba Today. "I love working in the media, I love to write, create, connect, inform and educate. Working with young, talented and motivated people like Juan Luis and Pilar is a blessing to me. We really enjoy making these Aruba Peeks and we surely hope that rubs off on the viewer."

### Corona Street Talk

During the pandemic a new series of videos was launched, dedicated to the COVID-19 crisis where we show people in their daily life during the corona time. Take a look on the website and social media for this new series called Corona Street Talk.

Check us out on Facebook Aruba Today or the website [www.arubatoday.com](http://www.arubatoday.com) and do not forget to like and share! Thank you for your support. □

## Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance Holds Masterclass with Dutch MPs on Nature Conservation and the Impacts of Climate Change on the Dutch Caribbean

**THE HAGUE, NETHERLANDS** — During ten days of official meetings, the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA) held a masterclass for Dutch Members of Parliament, explaining attendees the importance for supporting nature conservation in the Dutch Caribbean and putting more focus that climate change will have on the islands.

"During ten days of meetings here in the Netherlands with various stakeholders we thought it critical to address what is still a lack of knowledge for nature conservation in the biodiversity hotspot in the Dutch Kingdom; the Dutch Caribbean. That is why one of the major initiatives we took was to organize a masterclass on Dutch Caribbean Nature Conservation, our successes and challenges, and what is required to increase the goods and services provided by Nature to the Socio-

economic sustainability of the islands as we emerge into a post-pandemic reality," commented DCNA Director Tadzio Bervoets. During the meeting attendees were given information on the status of nature conservation on all six islands of the Dutch Caribbean, the need to include all six islands of the Dutch Caribbean in Climate Change decisions by the Kingdom Government and the need to financially support nature conservation on the islands.

"One of the most notable issues which came up during meetings, whether it was with the Ministry BZK, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Change, or with various Members of Parliament for the Netherlands, was the lack of awareness for Nature Conservation in the Dutch Caribbean and how protecting nature will ensure a sustainable financial future for the islands. That was why it

was important to meet with the respective decision-makers, partner nature organizations and research institutions to ensure that, in the Netherlands, nature conservation, Climate Change and Protected Area Management in the Dutch Caribbean is firmly placed on the agenda. That was the main goals of what were often intense and prolonged discussions," continued Bervoets. During meetings DCNA requested specifically to have the impacts of Climate Change and the impacts on the Nature, Society and Economies of the most vulnerable societies of the Kingdom, those in the Dutch Caribbean, be taken into account during the decision-making process, specifically as it relates to ongoing discussions as a part of the formation process and putting the Support for Nature of the Dutch Caribbean in future governing programs. □

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# July 26 is International Mangrove day

**ORANJESTAD – On July 26 we celebrate International Mangrove day. In Aruba, we know four types of mangroves protected by the National decree protection of indigenous flora and fauna (AB 2017 no.48).**

These mangrove trees are the Black mangrove (*Avicennia germinans*), Fofoti (*Conocarpus erecto*), Red mangrove (*Rizophora mangle*), and the White mangrove (*Laguncularia racemosa*). The Department of Nature and Environment (DNM) is responsible for providing information about the importance of these ecosystems and the need to preserve and protect these mangroves.

Mangroves are essential for the survival of many other marine species and the protection of the shore. The root system anchors deeply in the bottom of the ocean and provides optimal protection against natural disasters. These roots are the perfect hiding place for small fish. They are also the breeding grounds for organisms that are on the

lower scale of the food chain. In addition, the mangroves provide excellent habitats for birds.

There is often a strong smell when exploring the mangroves caused by falling leaves that decompose in the water. These rotting leaves also cause the water to look brown and the soil to be muddy.

Mangroves characteristics: Mangroves need saltwater to survive. Mangroves grow on the shore, in bays, and in wetlands connected to the ocean. Each mangrove has its aspects and function in nature. There used to be many more mangroves on the reefs, but now they are more concentrated in Spaans Lagoen and Isla di Oro, which areas are protected.

Common characteristics of Mangroves:

- They all grow on the shore or in brackish water on the wetlands.
- They reproduce in two ways; the roots grow underwater and in the ground out of the water. They also reproduce by dropping their



propagules into the water.

- They have white and white-beige flowers. They produce nectar.
- The roots are mainly submerged and anchored in the mud.
- They grow in the same ecological environment (plants, salt water, sun, and wind).
- They extract the salt from the ocean water using their roots and feed their leaves with the salt.

The mangroves contribute to our food supply. The roots contain an abundance of food for the crabs, limpets, and whelks. The mangrove trees also serve as breeding places and hideouts for fish and other smaller species, a.o. "Moli-moli", Palulo (oysters), plankton, and Benthic-Algae. The algae indicate the presence of carbon in the mangroves' ecosystem. Seagrass is full of marine life and is home to seahorses, starfish, little sea turtles, eels, and small fish. The seagrass is the "go-to" meal for sea turtles and starfish. These species grow in abundance between the mangrove's roots. They grow where the sun shines through and are a good source of nutrition.

The mangroves are full of insects and a variety of other species. You'll find spiders, beetles, and almost every other insect you can find at home. The spider webs catch butterflies and moths, beetles, flies, and mosquitos. You'll also find reptiles like the Anolis Lineatus, Aruba Whip-

tail lizards, iguanas, house geckos, boa constrictor, and bats that are hanging off the branches. Local birds and shorebirds also frequent the mangroves. They use the mangroves as shelter to sleep in and rest. They often seek quiet and darker spots in nature as shelter.

The goal of the DNM is to raise awareness of the essential ecological, economic, and social values that the mangrove forests are for Aruba. The DNM is grateful to all NGOs that help focus on the importance of the mangroves, especially Stimaruba for their unconditional support, guidance, and contribution to this cause. Let's not destroy the mangroves, as you are also destroying the habitats of thousands of species. Some people consider the mangroves as obstacles, blocking their ocean view, but these same mangroves can protect their property in case of natural disasters. Happy International Mangroves day 2021. □

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# China's Tencent ordered to end exclusive music contracts

By JOE McDONALD

**BEIJING (AP)** — Internet giant Tencent was ordered by regulators to end exclusive contracts with music copyright holders, adding to increased enforcement of anti-monopoly and other rules as Beijing tightens control over booming on-line industries.

Tencent controls more than 80% of "exclusive music library resources" following its 2016 acquisition of China Music Group, the State Administration for Market Regulation said Saturday. It said that gives Tencent the ability to get better terms than competitors receive or to limit the ability of rivals to enter the market.

Tencent Holdings Ltd., best known abroad for its WeChat messaging service, has a sprawling business empire that includes games, music and video. It is among the world's 10 most valuable publicly traded companies, with a stock market value of \$680 billion.

In order to "restore market competition," Tencent must end exclusive music copyright contracts within 30 days, the market regulator said in a statement. The company is barred from requiring providers to give better terms than competitors receive.

Tencent promised on its social media account to



In this Sept. 5, 2020 photo, people look at a display from Chinese technology firm Tencent at the China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) in Beijing. China's internet watchdog has fined technology platforms operated by e-commerce company Alibaba and gaming firm Tencent for spreading sexually suggestive content involving children, as regulators sought to clean up the internet of content harmful to minors.

"conscientiously abide by the decision."

Regulators are stepping up enforcement of anti-monopoly, data security, financial and other rules against Tencent, e-commerce giant Alibaba Group and other companies that dominate entertainment, retail and other industries.

The enforcement has hurt the stock market value of some companies. Shares in ride-hailing service Didi Global Inc., which made its U.S. stock market debut last month, are down 21% after regulators announced a probe of its "network security" and ordered the company to overhaul handling

of customer data.

Regulators have publicly warned major companies not to use their market dominance to keep out new competitors.

Tencent was blocked by regulators on July 10 from combining its game platforms Douyu and Huya on the grounds that might re-

(AP Photo/Mark Schiefelbein)

duce competition.

On Wednesday, the Chinese internet regulator reprimanded Tencent, Alibaba, microblog platform Sina Weibo and e-commerce service Xiaohongshu for allowing sexually suggestive stickers or short videos of children to be distributed on their services. □

# Odd couple: Mayfield, rocker Alice Cooper team for TV spot

By TOM WITHERS

AP Sports Writer

**CLEVELAND (AP)** — Baker Mayfield never dreamed of being on a team with Alice Cooper.

The Browns quarterback also had no idea the legendary rocker, known for theatrical stage shows featuring pyrotechnics, snakes and a guillotine, had more serious skills.

"He's a scratch golfer," Mayfield said of the 73-year-old Cooper, who shot three strokes below his age during a round at an area country club this week.

The unlikely pairing of Mayfield and one shock rock's godfathers took place dur-

ing a TV commercial shoot for Progressive's popular "At Home With Baker Mayfield" campaign, which features Mayfield and his wife, Emily, living inside FirstEnergy Stadium, home of the Browns. In the new spots for the award-winning campaign's third season, Mayfield and Cooper are neighbors.

Mayfield, who led the Browns to their first playoff berth since 2003 last season, knew only a little about Cooper before their first meeting. He was aware of "School's Out," Cooper's summer-has-arrived anthem shouted by kids across the country, but not much more.

So Mayfield did some deeper digging into the iconic singer, who was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 2011.

"Just an amazing person. Truly, not what I was expecting," Mayfield said. "He's a Detroit fan, which I didn't know. But if you're born there, you've got to be a Lions fan. He's a fun guy who takes his work very seriously."

"He was practicing his lines and I thought it was cool to see someone at that level still taking it that seriously." Mayfield and Cooper quickly built a strong working rapport and enjoyed their time together on set,



Singer Alice Cooper, left, and Cleveland Browns quarterback Baker Mayfield laugh during a Progressive Insurance commercial shoot at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Thursday, July 22, 2021, in Cleveland.

Associated Press

often bursting into laughter after a take. □



**CROSSWORD**

By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS** Constitution

- 1 Field enclosure
- 48 Singer
- 6 Sneaker features
- 11 Even a little
- 12 Precise
- 13 High-muck-a-muck
- 14 Towel material
- 15 Weeps noisily
- 17 Groom's wear
- 18 Independent sort
- 22 Sweeping story
- 23 Skewed views
- 27 Car sticker
- 29 "Coming up next" ad
- 30 Short sock
- 32 Go under
- 33 Admire
- 35 Touch lightly
- 38 Cooped (up)
- 39 City on the Mohawk River
- 41 Luminous glows
- 45 Back tooth
- 46 Old car part
- 47 Change, as the

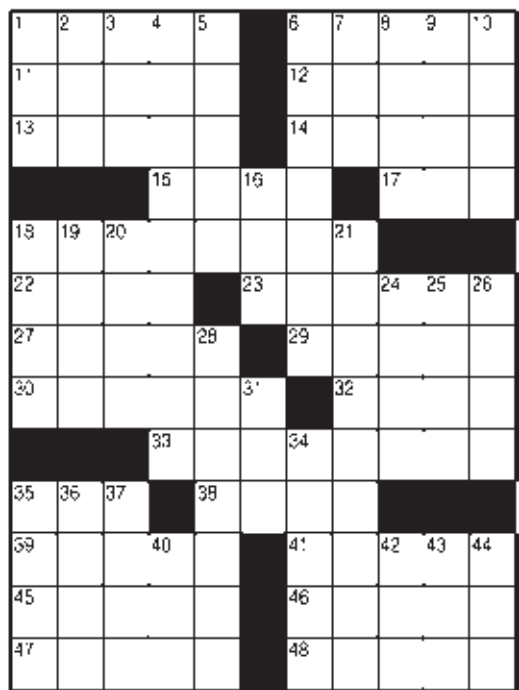
**DOWN**

- 1 Summer cooler
- 2 Seventh Greek letter
- 3 Arrest
- 4 Narrow escape
- 5 Arm joint
- 6 Say inadvertently
- 7 Woodsman's tool
- 8 Supermarket aid
- 9 Beige
- 10 River of Hades
- 16 Move up and down



**Saturday's answer**

- 18 Helen's mother
- 19 Ready for business
- 20 Shaving mishap
- 21 Years and years from now
- 24 Shower need
- 25 Radiate
- 26 Song for one
- 28 Spotted cat
- 31 Sock part
- 34 Aptitude
- 35 Mountain lion
- 36 Physics bit
- 37 Mosaic piece
- 40 Soup buy
- 42 Sprinted
- 43 Columnist Landers
- 44 Cloud setting



7-26

A X Y D L B A A X R  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

7-26

**CRYPTOQUOTE**

I Y D P D T D P E H N O B Z L D Y Q J Z

X Z N X K Z . Y U Z P U D J Z D X H N R K Z O

E N H Z J Z H P I N K W Y Q N B .

— DKRZHY ZQBIYZQB

**Saturday's Cryptoquote:** NO DISABILITY OR DICTIONARY OUT THERE IS CAPABLE OF CLEARLY DEFINING WHO WE ARE AS A PERSON.

— ROBERT M. HENSEL

# Australia avoids UNESCO downgrade of Great Barrier Reef

By ROD McGUIRK

Associated Press

**CANBERRA, Australia (AP)**

— Australia on Friday garnered enough international support to defer for two years an attempt by the United Nations' cultural organization to downgrade the Great Barrier Reef's World Heritage status because of damage caused by climate change.

UNESCO had recommended that its World Heritage Committee add the world's largest coral reef ecosystem off the northeast Australian coast to the World Heritage in Danger list, mainly due to rising ocean temperatures.

But Australian-proposed amendments to the draft decision at a committee meeting in China on Friday deferred the "in danger" question until 2023.

In the meantime, a monitoring mission will visit the reef to determine how the impact of climate change can be managed.

Representatives of 16 of the 21 committee nations apart from Australia spoke in favor of the amendments before the committee accepted the position without a vote. Only Norway argued for the reef to be listed "in danger." The committee usually makes consensus decisions.

Australian Environment Minister Sussan Ley told the virtual meeting that downgrading the reef's status before the committee had finalized its own climate change policy made no sense.

"Delegates, we ask only two things: time for experts to see first hand our commitment to the reef, its present condition and our management, and for the final climate policy to provide a consistent framework for addressing the impacts of climate change on all World Heritage properties," she said from Australia, where she is in quarantine after lobbying delegates in Europe and the Middle East on the decision.

In 2014, Australia was warned that an "in dan-



In this undated photo provided by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Hardy Reef, part of the Great Barrier Reef, is viewed from the air off the coast of Australia.

Associated Press

ger" listing was being considered rather than being proposed for immediate action.

Australia had time to respond by developing a long-term plan to improve the reef's health called the Reef 2050 Plan.

Since then, the reef has suffered significantly from coral bleaching caused by unusually warm ocean temperatures in 2016, 2017 and last year. The bleaching damaged two thirds of the coral.

Australia reacted angrily last month when the draft decision was published to remove the network of 2,500 reefs covering 348,000 square kilometers (134,000 square miles) from the World Heritage list it joined 40 years ago for its "outstanding universal value." The "in danger" listing is one step away from losing all World Heritage standing. "This decision was flawed. Clearly there were politics behind it," Ley said at the time.

Many in Australia's conservative government saw the move as an attempt to pressure it into committing to reducing the nation's greenhouse gas emissions to zero by 2050 and to stop allowing coal mines to be expanded.

In arguing for the reef's downgrade, UNESCO World Heritage Center's marine program coordinator, Fanny Douvère, referred to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's conclusion that global emissions needed to

fall to zero by 2050 to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit).

"Accelerated action on climate change on all possible levels, in accordance with the 1.5 degree target under the Paris Agreement for Climate Change, and the recovery of the property from poor water quality are both vital and are urgent to secure the outstanding universal value of the Great Barrier Reef for present and for future generations," Douvère said.

Greenpeace said in a statement that the committee had missed an opportunity to shine a light on Australia's neglect of a natural wonder.

The Chinese host of the committee meeting in the city of Fuzhou this week defended the proposed "in danger" listing against Australian government suspicion that China influenced the finding for political reasons.

"Australia, as a member state of the World Heritage Committee, should ... attach importance to the opinions of the advisory bodies and earnestly fulfill the duty of World Heritage protection instead of making groundless accusations against other states," said Tian Xuejun, the Chinese vice minister of education and the president of this year's session.

China's representative said during the debate that his nation "supports the emerging consensus" to defer the "in danger" question. □



# SEC takeover: Expansion would just mean more power, wealth



SEC Commissioner Greg Sankey speaks to reporters during the NCAA college football Southeastern Conference Media Days Monday, July 19, 2021, in Hoover, Ala.

By RALPH D. RUSSO

(AP) - Barring a dramatic change of direction, Texas and Oklahoma are moving toward taking the Red River Rivalry to the Southeastern Conference in a seismic shift that will have repercussions in college sports from coast to coast. According to multiple reports, the first and very significant formal step of the process could come as soon as Monday with the two schools informing the Big 12 they will not renew the contractual agreement that binds conference members until 2025. After that, lawyers can take over. An early departure by Texas and Oklahoma could cost the schools more than \$100 million combined to get out of that grant of rights.

But a pot of gold awaits in the SEC and having the Longhorns and Sooners linger as lame ducks doesn't have much upside for the Big 12.

There is a good chance that come kickoff of the 2022 college football season, Texas and Oklahoma will be in the Southeastern Conference.

## IT JUST MEANS MORE MONEY

The SEC signed a new \$300 million deal with ESPN last year that gives the network rights to all SEC football games starting in 2024 and is expected to bump the conference's annual distribution to its members to about \$68 million.

The Big 12 distributed \$34.5

million per school recently, down over the previous year because of the pandemic.

A projection done by Navigate Research, which does data modeling for professional sports leagues and college conferences, for The Athletic last year had the annual distribution gap between the SEC and Big 12 at about \$16 million per team per year in the SEC's favor by 2026.

That was under the assumption the Big 12 would still have Texas and Oklahoma.

The Big 12's next TV deal will pay substantially less without its flagship schools than the \$574 million in 2026 that Navigate was projecting.

"That's a given," said former Big 12 Commissioner Chuck Neinas, who

stepped in to help the conference survive the last round of realignment in the early 2010s.

Generally, TV contracts are structured so if a conference adds new members, the network's payout increases proportionally.

The addition of Texas and Oklahoma to the SEC could break from standard operating procedure. That's especially true if ESPN decides it no longer needs a partnership with the Big 12 and the SEC increases the quality and quantity of its football inventory by going to a nine-game conference schedule.

Or maybe 10.

## TEXAS A&M'S REACTION

The Aggies are not thrilled about the prospect of sharing the SEC with the Longhorns, who they were happy to leave behind when they left the Big 12 in 2011. There will be complaints from board members and politicians, but Texas A&M will not play obstructionist as the SEC tries to complete this deal.

"Whoever joins, whatever that looks like, that's what we're ready for," Texas A&M athletic director Ross Bjork told the AP on Sunday.

## CFP EXPANSION

SEC Commissioner Greg Sankey was part of a four-person group, along with Big 12 Commissioner Bob

Bowlsby, that worked on College Football Playoff expansion for about two years.

The plan unveiled last month calls for a 12-team field. There are steps to go before formal approval, but implementation could come as soon as 2023.

Those with a background in college sports believe it was no coincidence that Sankey was working on both CFP and SEC expansion. □



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# Family of James Brown settles 15-year battle over his estate

By MEG KINNARD

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) —

The family of entertainer James Brown has reached a settlement ending a 15-year battle over the late singer's estate, an attorney involved in the mediation said Friday.

David Black, an attorney representing Brown's estate, confirmed to The Associated Press that the agreement was reached July 9.

Details of the settlement were not disclosed.

Legal wrangling over the Godfather of Soul's estate has been ongoing since his death at the age of 73 on Christmas Day 2006.

The performer's death touched off years of bizarre headlines, beginning with Tomi Rae Hynie — a former partner who claimed to be Brown's wife — being locked out of his 60-acre (24-hectare) estate while photographers captured her sobbing and shaking its iron gates, begging to be let in.

Brown was renowned for hundreds of iconic musical works including hits like "I Feel Good" and "A Man's World," and was known around the world for his flashy performances and



**FILE - In this July 6, 2005 file photo, James Brown performs on stage during the Live 8 concert at Murrayfield Stadium in Edinburgh, Scotland. The family of entertainer James Brown has reached a settlement ending a 15-year battle over late singer's estate. David Black, an attorney representing Brown's estate, confirmed to The Associated Press on Friday, July 23, 2021 that the agreement was reached July 9.**

dynamic stage presence. But years of drug problems and financial mismanagement caused his estate to dwindle.

More than a dozen lawsuits were filed over the years by people trying to lay claim to the singer's assets, which courts have estimated to

be worth anything from \$5 million to more than \$100 million.

The fight over Brown's estate even spilled over into what to do with his body. Family members fought over the remains for more than two months, leaving Brown's body, still inside a

gold casket, sitting in cold storage in a funeral home. Brown was eventually buried in Beech Island, South Carolina, at the home of one of his daughters. The family wanted to turn the home into a shrine for Brown similar to Elvis Presley's Graceland, but that

idea never got off the ground.

Last year, the South Carolina Supreme Court ruled that Hynie had not been legally married to Brown and therefore did not have a right to his multimillion-dollar estate.

Justices also ordered a circuit court to "promptly proceed with the probate of Brown's estate in accordance with his estate plan," which outlined creation of a trust that would use his music royalties to fund educational expenses for children in South Carolina and Georgia.

A 2009 settlement plan would have given nearly half of Brown's estate to a charitable trust, a quarter to Hynie, and the rest to be split among his adult children. T

he state Supreme Court overturned that deal in 2013, writing that then-Attorney General Henry McMaster — now the state's governor — hadn't followed Brown's expressed wishes for most of his money to go to charity, having instead selected a professional manager who took control of Brown's assets from the estate's trustees to settle debts. □

Associated Press

# Prosecutors air more claims in R. Kelly case; 1 involves boy



**FILE - In this Sept. 17, 2019, file photo, R. Kelly appears during a hearing at the Leighton Criminal Courthouse in Chicago. Federal prosecutors in New York on Friday, July 23, 2021, asked a judge for permission to admit what they said was evidence for which Kelly has not been charged, at his upcoming sex-trafficking trial in Brooklyn.**

(Antonio Perez/Chicago Tribune via AP, Pool, File)

By JENNIFER PELTZ

NEW YORK (AP) — Federal prosecutors in R. Kelly's sex trafficking case say he had sexual contact with an un-

derage boy in addition to girls, and the government wants jurors in his upcoming sex trafficking trial to hear those claims.

Prosecutors aired a wide-ranging raft of additional allegations — but not new charges — against the R&B star in a court filing Friday. Jury selection is due to start Aug. 9 in a New York federal court for Kelly, who denies ever abusing anyone. A message was sent Saturday to his lawyers about the additional allegations. The Grammy Award-winning singer is charged with leading what prosecutors call a criminal enterprise of managers, bodyguards and other employees who allegedly helped him recruit women and girls for sex and pornography and to exercise a lot of control over them.

The charges involve six different women and girls, who aren't named in court filings.

Now, prosecutors would also like jurors to hear about more than a dozen other people whom the government alleges that Kelly sexually or physically abused, threatened or otherwise mistreated. Among them, the government says, was a 17-year-old boy and aspiring musician whom Kelly met at a McDonald's in December 2006 and later invited to his Chicago studio. After asking the boy what he would do to make it in the music business, Kelly propositioned and had sexual contact with him while he was still underage, according to prosecutors' court filing.

And when Kelly was about to go on trial on child pornography charges in Chicago in 2008, the same youth told the singer he

had access to a juror, and Kelly asked him to contact the juror and vouch he was a "good guy," prosecutors wrote.

The filing doesn't say whether the youth did so. Kelly was acquitted in that case.

The boy also introduced Kelly to a 16- or 17-year-old male friend, with whom prosecutors say the singer began a sexual relationship several years later. Kelly also filmed the two youths in sexual encounters with other people, including some of Kelly's girlfriends, according to the filing.

Prosecutors wrote that the accounts of the boys and others would help show that the actual charges "were not isolated events and were part of a larger pattern." □



# Indians rally for 3-2 win, end 11-game losing skid to Rays

(AP) — Bobby Bradley's sacrifice fly in the eighth inning capped Cleveland's comeback and sent the Indians to a 3-2 win over Tampa Bay on Sunday, ending the Indians' losing streak against the Rays at 11 games.

On the verge of being swept and dropping under .500 for the first time since May 1, the Indians, who managed just one run in seven innings against Tampa Bay starter Ryan Yarbrough, rallied in the eighth off reliever Matt Wisler (3-4).

Hernandez, who homered in the first, led off with a single before Wisler hit Amed Rosario on the hand. After an RBI single by Harold Ramirez, Bradley hit a fly to center deep enough to score Rosario ahead of Kevin Kiermaier's throw.

James Karinchak (7-2) pitched one inning and Emmanuel Clase worked the ninth for his 12th save — and first since June 16 — as the Indians won for just the sixth time in 22 games.

Nelson Cruz hit his second homer in three games for Tampa Bay.

Cruz, who joined the Rays on Friday after the club acquired him a trade with Minnesota, connected in the sixth off Triston McKenzie for his 438th homer to tie Hall of Famer Andre Daw-

son for 45th place on the career list.

Cleveland manager Terry Francona missed his second straight game, staying home to rest and recover from a nasty head cold he caught during the team's recent road trip.

Cruz, who homered in his debut for Tampa Bay on Friday, gave the Rays a 2-1 lead in the sixth with his 21st homer of 2021. The potent designated hitter drove a 1-1 pitch from McKenzie over the wall in center for a solo shot.

Hernandez led off the first with his 17th homer. It was the second baseman's 18th career leadoff homer, and his fifth in 2021. □



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## Russians top Biles, Americans in gymnastics qualifying

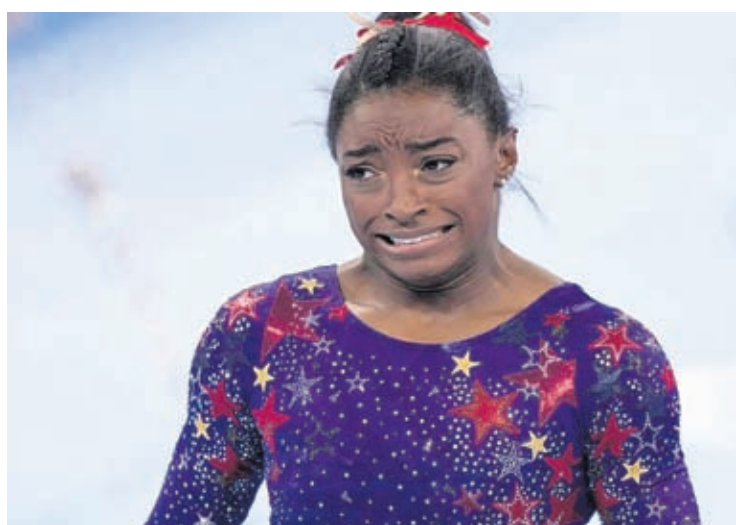
**(AP)** — The trouble started early. A step out of bounds on floor exercise here. A short landing there.

Over the course of two hours on Sunday, the mistakes — some almost imperceptible, some laid bare for the world to see — kept piling up, chipping away at the aura USA Gymnastics has built over the past decade. Not even the greatest of all time was immune to the realities of a sport where perfection is unattainable.

For 11 years, the Americans flirted with it, at least from a competitive standpoint, flying all over the globe, then flying back home with their suitcases stuffed with gold. It still might happen at the Tokyo Olympics. But for the first time in a long time, it appears it won't happen without a fight.

Russia pulled off a stunner in qualifying, posting a top score of 171.629, more than a full point ahead of the U.S. total 170.562. While reigning Olympic champion Simone Biles topped the all-around with teammate Sunisa Lee close behind in third, the Americans ended their session looking up at another name on the scoreboard in the team standings for the first time since the 2010 world championships.

"This was not the finals," U.S. high-performance director Tom Forster said. "This was getting into the finals. So this might be a great awak-



ening for us and we'll take advantage of it."

China, France, Belgium, Great Britain, Italy and host Japan also advanced to Tuesday night's final. Olympic legend Oksana Chusovitina's journey is over. The 46-year-old from Uzbekistan did not qualify during the vault final at her record eighth Olympics.

Athletes, judges and administrators rose to their feet to salute Chusovitina as she made her way off the floor. She waved to the

crowd with tears in her eyes before posing for pictures with whoever wanted one. "I'm saying goodbye to sports," Chusovitina said. "It's kind of mixed feelings. I'm alive, I'm happy, I'm here without any injuries, and I can stand on my own."

Something the Americans have done in the team competition for 10 years. After going largely unchallenged over two Olympic quads, they suddenly have company.



Forster raised eyebrows following the Olympic Trials last month when he said taking the top four finishers in the all-around in rank over a squad that could potentially score a bit higher by taking a specialist didn't matter. He reasoned sacrificing a tenth or two here or there wasn't going to matter based on the history of blowout wins by the Americans at world championships since he took over in 2018.

"We thought it was a good order, and I still feel good about it," Forster said, who later added, "it will all work out."

It always has since Biles joined an already dominant program in 2013. Everything will be reset for the finals, when the format changes to three-up/three-count. The pressure will be greater. And the Americans have found a way to thrive under it.

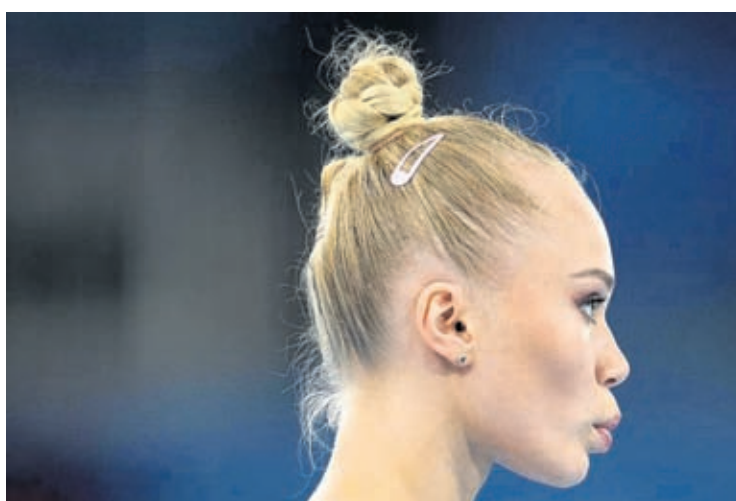
Inside a largely empty Ariake Gymnastics Cen-

ter, they finally faltered. At least by their towering standards.

Not even Biles was immune. While the 24-year-old star topped the all-around with a total of 57.731 and advanced to the finals in all four events, it didn't come easy. She backpedaled all the way off the mat following a tumbling pass on her floor exercise, then basically did the same on vault. She responded with a solid set on uneven bars, but a spectacular beam routine ended with her temporarily reeling following her dismount, something Forster said he's never seen her do.

Biles, who came to Japan as the face of the U.S. Olympic movement and possibly the Games themselves, saluted the judges then walked off the podium with a smile that looked like a combination of relief, sarcasm and frustration.

There was plenty to go around. □



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